Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

New pollution service launched to forecast your bad air days

31 May 2001

Release number 477

Asthma sufferers, motorists and holidaymakers are set to benefit from a new air quality forecast service aimed at providing air quality information to the public.g day it will be worth keeping a 'brolly' handy, although many places will miss the showers entirely".

Councils in East and West Sussex have teamed up with the Met Office to produce a tailor-made local pollution forecast that can be accessed on the Internet.

The air quality forecasts are produced using state-of-the-art technology to predict the levels of the main pollutants in the air for the next two days, using local weather forecast information combined with pollution data. This helps members of the public to plan their activities based around the local air quality.

Motorists will also be able to decide if they want to do their bit for the environment by leaving their cars at home and take the train on days with high levels of nitrogen dioxide - the major cause of which is traffic pollution.

Both the East and West Sussex websites have links to suggest activities for holidaymakers depending on whether it's going to be a day of good air quality, or for days when air quality is poor, and some people - especially children, the elderly and those who suffer from respiratory conditions - would be more comfortable indoors.

Linda Rigby, Met Office Environment Account Manager, said: "The service which we have created for Sussex is particularly sophisticated because it forecasts the levels of four different pollutants, each of which originate from slightly different sources.

"This means that on some days it will be evident that heavy traffic will be the cause of poor air quality, so we should urge motorists to think long and hard about whether they ought to try to leave the car at home."

The Met Office air quality forecasts will help the local authorities comply with government regulations which require them to ensure that types of each air pollutant fall within specified levels by the year 2005.

Andrew Deacon, Sussex Air Quality Steering Group Project Development Officer said: "We are increasingly looking to the general public to do their bit to reduce their contribution to air pollution. We hope this service will provide them with the information they need, as well as protecting susceptible individuals."

Click here to visit the Sussex air quality forecast.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site
News
News release archive
Media Centre
Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf
Services

don't guess
weathercall
Met Office forecasts by phone or fax...
Met Office

Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster
Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information
Contact
Contact us
Questions answered

© Crown copyright